

519,939

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



29 DEC 2004



(43) International Publication Date
22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/007559 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C08B 11/20, 15/02, C08K 5/14, 3/38, C08L 1/26
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2003/007327
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 July 2003 (07.07.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 02077756.1 10 July 2002 (10.07.2002) EP
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
- with international search report
 - before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 2004/007559 A1

(54) Title: DEPOLYMERIZATION OF WATER SOLUBLE POLYSACCHARIDES

(57) Abstract: Process for preparing a solution of a polysaccharide or polysaccharide ether having a viscosity of 1,000 mPa.s or less comprising adding to an aqueous medium a polysaccharide or polysaccharide ether and an alkaline depolymerization agent. Also disclosed is a solid composition comprising a polysaccharide ether and an alkaline depolymerization agent. Preferably, the depolymerization agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium percarbonate, sodium perborate, carbamide peroxide in combination with a base, sodium persulfate in combination with a base, 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid in combination with a base, and mixtures thereof.